by my friend Mr. Kuruvila, and I dare say will be anticipated by the public as well. I expected to see a number of petitions upon this Bill. Probably it has not been sufficiently long before the public. It was published only about four weeks ago, which I consider is hardly sufficient for a measure of this kind. I dare say before the Bill is passed, the public will have ample time to offer any criticisms they may have. Though the Bill does not contain all the necessary safe-guards, I think they may be introduced in the Select Committee to which, I trust, it will be referred. There are various valuable suggestions thrown out by my friend Mr. Kuruvila, and I have no doubt they will be taken advantage of in the discussion of this measure before the Select Committee; and at a later stage, before this Council. With these remarks, I would allow the abstract principle of the Bill being affirmed.

Mr. Kochukrishna Marar.—It appears to me also that section 3 of the Bill is open to some objection. The power which is proposed to be conferred on the officers of the preventive department is rather excessive, and the chances are that they will be or are likely to be abused. To my mind, there is much force in the observations made by my friend Mr. Kuruvila, and I hope that when the Bill is referred to a Select Committee, this section will undergo alteration in the light of those observations. The section has no doubt made provision for some safe-guards but, it appears to me they are insufficient, and the safe-guards regarding searches, contained in the Criminal Procedure Code and other Regulations may also, if possible, be introduced into this Regulation.

Mr. Maltby.—I take it that the principle of the Bill may be fully allowed and the details left for discussion at a later stage. I entirely approve of the principle.

President.—From the opinions of the members it is clear that they all approve of the principle of the Bill. The details will, of course, receive consideration at the hands of the Select Committee.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Thanu Pillai proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Rajaram Row, Ramier and the Mover, to report within one month.

Seconded by Mr. Maltby.

Carried.

GUARDIAN AND WARDS BILL.

Mr. Kochukrishna Marar.—I do not propose to make a long speech regarding this Bill. It has been before the public for a sufficiently long time. I believe you will have observed that the sections are mostly adopted from the corresponding British enactment. In a few of them, I have introduced some alterations which have been explained on a former occassion. Without any further remarks, I beg to move that the principle of the Bill be affirmed.

The principle having been affirmed by the Council, Mr. Kochukrishna Marar proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Thànu Pillai, Prince, Ramier and the Mover, to report within four months.

Seconded by Mr. Maltby.

Carried.

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS BILL.

Mr. Kuruvila.—I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on this Bill and move that the Report and the amended Bill be published in the Gazette. The consideration of the Bill may be deferred to a future meeting

The Council adjourned at 4 P. M.

K. KRISHNASWAMY RAO,
President.

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